

## Message

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**Sent:** 8/31/2017 9:55:53 PM  
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**Subject:** ORD Weekly August 31 2017  
**Attachments:** ORD weekly Update Aug 31.docx

Administrator,

This week ORD, in collaboration with North Carolina's Department of Environmental Quality, hosted the state environmental agency directors in RTP, NC. Directors from Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia attended, along with senior leadership from Region 4 and ORD. Topics included PFAS, emerging/unregulated drinking water contaminants, smoke emissions from wildfires/controlled burns, an early warning system for harmful algal blooms, and air sensor technology. On his second day as Region 4 RA, Trey Glenn, along with Anne Heard joined the state directors and ORD senior leadership for a productive discussion over dinner.

### Hot issues

#### **TSCA Support: Chemical Prioritization**

OPPT is forming a set of chemicals that can be used to develop options for prioritization. ORD is providing information on those chemicals to characterize physical-chemical properties, structure, exposure and toxicity. Additionally, ORD is participating in weekly discussions with OPPT to define prioritization approaches. ORD staff are also involved in discussions with Canadian and ECHA (European Chemicals Agency) to share approaches related to chemical prioritization and apply lessons learned to help the implementation of TSCA.

#### **PFAS**

Yesterday, EPA (OSP, OSA, NCCT, NCEA, NHEERL, NERL, R4, OPPT, OW and OLEM) participated in a conference call convened by NC DENR/DHHS to discuss possible options for assessing toxicology and risk for the PFASs that have been identified in the Cape Fear river. This discussion followed Monday's (Aug 28) Non-Targeted Lab Results Briefing to NC DEQ that was led by ORD.

### Upcoming public events

#### **Small Business Innovation Research**

NCER is working with OPA/ORD/Regional communication leads in preparation of announcing \$1.6 million in funding for 15 small businesses receiving Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase I awards. The announcement is anticipated for Sept. 5, 2017. These contracts are awarded as part of EPA's SBIR annual two-phase competition. Companies first compete for a Phase I award of \$100,000 to develop technologies that provide sustainable solutions for environmental issues. After receiving a Phase I award, companies are eligible to compete for a Phase II award of \$300,000 to further develop and commercialize the technology.

**State/Region Support: ORD scientists to help determine contaminant sources in Urban Background Study, Gainesville FL, September 5-8.**

ORD will assist Region 4 and the Florida Department of Environmental Quality in collecting soil samples from public urban areas in Gainesville to support development of a database of background concentrations for metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the southeast United States. Development of a regional soil background database will help in distinguishing between anthropogenic background concentrations and site-related contaminant concentrations for the Region 4 Superfund and RCRA/Brownfields programs.

### **Evaluating Chemicals**

Next week ORD will join a conference call with EPA OCSPP, EPA Region 9 and California's Department of Toxic Substances Control to discuss progress on the collaboration with the groups to share information and resources on evaluating chemicals. This collaboration is formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding.

**ORD to Help with Ozone Monitoring Network in Beijing, China, September 15-24.** ORD is traveling to Beijing to provide training on the Standard Reference Photometer. The Chinese government is interested in developing a monitoring network similar to EPA's National Performance Evaluation Program. By producing ozone data that will be legally defensible, the Chinese government will be able to pass legislation that will reduce ozone and other air pollutant levels.

### **Last week Highlights**

#### **PM Training Course for Healthcare Professionals**

ORD and OAR collaborated to develop an evidence-based training course for healthcare professionals summarizing the scientific data linking exposures to PM with a wide range of health effects. This course, which is now live, includes educational tools that healthcare providers can share with their patients, especially those with pre-existing heart and lung disease, to help them understand how PM can affect their health; to learn how to use the Air Quality Index; and ways to reduce their exposures to PM.

**Remediation to Restoration to Revitalization Research Efforts Save State Partner Big Money.** The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency reported that ORD's assistance in developing remediation and restoration designs have saved the state over \$30 million that can be put toward further critical work to delist sites within the St Louis Estuary (Great Lakes) Area of Concern. MPCA specifically cites the work done on ecosystem services and aquatic habitat restoration.

#### **Bioterrorism preparedness research and capabilities at DoD/DHS sponsored experts workshop**

This week ORD and OLEM participated in a DoD/DHS-sponsored, 1-day workshop at Ft. Eustis, VA. The workshop brought together partners from across the federal government and stakeholders in DoD's NORTHCOM to discuss existing threats and current work on combating and responding to domestic biological terrorism. EPA staff briefed the group on a recent EPA-led field study at Ft. A.P. Hill, VA, that evaluated biological response, sampling and remediation strategies for an underground transportation (i.e., subway) system. EPA's participation in this workshop facilitates continued collaboration between EPA and other federal partners.

#### **EPA and CDC collaborate on improving preparedness to respond to bioterrorism**

On August 24, 2017 in Atlanta, ORD and OLEM visited the CDC's Anthrax Coordination Team to discuss the continued collaboration and coordination to further enhance our Nation's ability to respond to and recovery from acts of biological terrorism. The CDC and EPA have responsibilities to protect human health by preventing exposures to environmental contaminants following a biological contamination incident. Topics discussed at the meeting include Agency roles and responsibilities during a response, clearance strategies, environmental sampling and analysis methods, and laboratory networks coordination. The group intends to formalize their relationship via a new Memorandum of Understanding.

#### **Meeting with Representative Schweikert (AZ-06)**

On August 25, ORD and OSA met with Arizona State University, Rep David Schweikert (AZ-06), and other EPA staff to discuss a potential air monitoring project in Phoenix. OSA is coordinating the discussion of a pilot in Phoenix with ORD, OAR, Region 9 and OGC, and will also include OEI. The pilot project may compare how information from an array of low cost air sensors compare to the more expensive regulatory air monitors.

#### **U.S. Senate Staff Visit Three ORD Ecology Research Labs**

ORD in Narragansett, RI, hosted staff from Rhode Island Senator Jack Reed's office on August 30. Senator's Reed's staff requested the visit to learn about ongoing research and ORD contributions to Rhode Island's needs. Today, Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley's chief of staff and coastal staff will visit the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, OR, where ORD staff will take part in discussions on coastal and ocean research priorities. Then, on September 6, an aid from Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar's office will visit the ORD lab in Duluth, MN, to tour the facility and discuss the division's science focus areas.

### **Superfund**

On August 31, the Region 7 and ORD finalized an interim report evaluating the effects of EPA's removal and remediation activities at the Omaha Lead Superfund Site on local children's blood lead levels and academic performance measures. The report's findings will be used by EPA to inform additional follow-up studies for the site.

### **Partners for Atmospheric Water Generation**

EPA has posted an announcement seeking partners for atmospheric water generation. The announcement envisions establishing Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADA) with up to four non-federal partners for the purpose of investigating the potential use of atmospheric water generators (AWGs) in expanding the availability of water during shortages, contamination events and other interruptions of service. We anticipate the collaborative research efforts to result in a broad comparative framework to assess innovative technology such as AWG and alternative options under different scenarios and to provide better understanding of the, cost, benefits and trade-offs. Responses are due September 30, 2017.

### **Publication: Effectiveness of Disinfecting and Sporicidal Wipes against *Bacillus atrophaeus*, a *Bacillus anthracis* Surrogate**

Disposable wipe materials can, when saturated with a sporicidal liquid, facilitate the inactivation of biological agents such as *Bacillus anthracis* (*B. anthracis*) spores, the causative agent of anthrax. Disinfecting and sporicidal wipes are frequently used in healthcare settings, because they are appealing, readily available and easy to use. This Technical Brief summarizes published research that considers the use of disinfecting and sporicidal wipes for decontamination of surfaces following a *B. anthracis* release. This Tech Brief facilitates the transfer of information to end users such as incident commanders and remediation personnel.